

What is Claimed is:

Sub B.

1. A system for distributing program guide data from a main facility through local systems to a plurality of receivers, comprising:

means for forming a plurality of queues for the program guide data;

means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues; and

means for distributing the program guide data from the queues to the receivers using the local systems.

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2.

The system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on the type of data records associated with the queues.

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3.

The system defined in claim 1 wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on the duration covered by the lists that are contained within the queues.

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4.

The system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is distributed to the receivers.

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¹⁸
~~8.~~ The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is updated.

¹⁹
~~8.~~ The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on when the lists start.

²⁰
~~7.~~ The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on when the lists expire.

²¹
~~8.~~ The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is transmitted after the program guide data has expired.

²²
~~8.~~ The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises means for selectively

changing the configuration of the queues based on queue configuration data provided at the main facility.

²³
~~10~~. The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for forming the queues further comprises means for forming a service information queue.

²⁴
~~11~~. The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for forming the queues further comprises means for forming a current listings queue.

²⁵
~~12~~. The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the means for forming the queues further comprises means for forming a seven-day listings queue.

²⁶
~~13~~. The system defined in claim ¹⁴~~1~~ wherein the program guide data for each queue is contained in data records, the means for forming the queues further comprising means for adding version numbers to the data records.

Sub H

14. A method for distributing program guide data from a main facility through local systems to a plurality of receivers, comprising the steps of:
forming a plurality of queues for the program guide data;
selectively changing the configuration of the queues; and
distributing the program guide data from the queues to the receivers using the local systems.

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15. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on the type of data records associated with the queues.

16. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on the duration covered by the lists that are contained within the queues.

17. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is distributed to the receivers.

18. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is updated.

19. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising the step of selectively changing the

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configuration of the queues based on when the lists start.

20. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the queues contain lists of data records, the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprising the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on when the lists expire.

21. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on how frequently the program guide data for the queues is transmitted after the program guide data has expired.

22. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues further comprises the step of selectively changing the configuration of the queues based on queue configuration data provided at the main facility.

23. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of forming the queues further comprises the step of forming a service information queue.

24. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of forming the queues further comprises the step of forming a current listings queue.

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25. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the step of forming the queues further comprises the step of forming a seven-day listings queue.

26. The method defined in claim 14 wherein the program guide data for each queue is contained in data records, the step of forming the queues further comprising the step of adding version numbers to the data records.

27. A system for distributing program guide data to a plurality of receivers through local systems, comprising:

a main facility for providing the program guide data;

a plurality of feed generators each of which is associated with a respective list of addresses and each of which receives different program guide data from the main facility based on its associated list of addresses; and

means for distributing the program guide data received by each feed generator to receivers with addresses contained in the list associated with that feed generator.

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28. A method for distributing program guide data to a plurality of receivers through local systems, comprising the steps of:

providing the program guide data with a main facility;

receiving different program guide data from the main facility with each of a plurality of feed

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generators based on respective lists of addresses associated with the feed generators; and

distributing the program guide data received by each feed generator to receivers with addresses contained in the list associated with that feed generator.

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~~29.~~ A system for distributing program guide data from a main facility through local systems to a plurality of receivers without processing the program guide data substantially in the local systems, comprising:

means for forming a plurality of feed generator queues for program guide data records;

means for locating a high priority feed generator queue;

means for locating a given data record to be transmitted from the high priority feed generator queue while avoiding data records with addresses corresponding to receivers that are busy;

means for constructing a message from other data records with the same address as the given data record;

means for transmitting the message to receivers having the address of the given data record; and

means for determining how long those receivers will be busy processing the transmitted message using information about the contents of the transmitted message.

Sub A3

30. A method for distributing program guide data from a main facility through local systems to a plurality of receivers without processing the program guide data substantially in the local systems, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of feed generator queues for program guide data records;

locating a high priority feed generator queue;

locating a given data record to be transmitted from the high priority feed generator queue while avoiding data records with addresses corresponding to receivers that are busy;

constructing a message from other data records with the same address as the given data record;

transmitting the message to receivers having the address of the given data record; and

determining how long those receivers will be busy processing the transmitted message using information about the contents of the transmitted message.

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